

£16



A SHORT
ACCOUNT
OF THE
HURRICANE.



Printed for *J. Brotherton*, at the *Bible*
in *Cornhill.*

STANDARD BOOKS

A. T. R. T.

ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

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STANDARD BOOKS

A SHORT
ACCOUNT
OF THE
HURRICANE,

That pass'd thro' the *English* Leeward
CARIBBEE ISLANDS, on *Saturday*
the 30th of *June* 1733.

With REMARKS.

In a LETTER from an Inhabitant of His
Majesty's Island of *Nevis*, to a Gentleman in
London.

—*recalcitrat undique tutus.*

Hor. Lib. 2. Sat. I. lin. 20.

L O N D O N:

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sellers of *London* and *Westminster*. 1733.

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TRUSS A

ACCOUNT

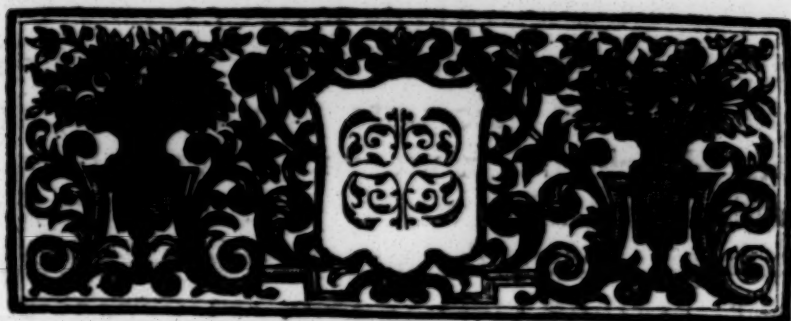
OF THE

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SHORT ACCOUNT, &c.

S I R,

NEVIS, *July 9. 1733.*



I Will give you some Account of the most violent *Hurricane* that has been in these Parts since *August 1707*. It began on the 30th of last Month about Break of Day, at the North-East, where it continued till near Ten, when it was at the Height from that Point; then, shifting for a little Space into the East, it suddenly pass'd with prodigious Force to the South-East, from whence it raged most furiously till Twelve; at Twelve there was a Clap of Thunder, which here is deem'd a sure Sign of the breaking up of a Storm; accordingly it respited till Two, and then began again with a louder Thunder-Clap than the first, but with less Fury than

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before;



before; and between Three and Four it ended. The Accounts you will have of this Hurricane from the several Islands must needs differ widely; in one, it was perhaps the worst they ever felt; in another, nothing considerable. In one, it began or ended sooner or later than in another. In one, it was at the Height at Ten in the Morning, in another at Noon, and, in a Third, perhaps, not till Three or Four in the Afternoon. In one, it observ'd some Uniformity in blowing, and was not so signal and sudden in rising or falling. In another, it came more in Gusts and Whirls; and, in a Third, there might be a Mixture of both: And the like in other Particulars. And yet these different Accounts may be equally true; for there was no small Variety, even in this little Island. It was more violent in the Country than the Town, and did more Mischief in some Places of the Country than others, according as they lay more or less expos'd to it, or as more or fewer Gusts invaded them. Here it would often run along in narrow Veins, and whirl around, and take up whatever stood in the Way. The House I live in is not above 200 Yards East from the Sea; and I saw one of those Gyres, or Whirls, at no great Distance from me to the Northward, carrying, and at the same time circulating within its Compass, an immense Quantity of Cane-Trash, Bushes,

Bushes, and Boughs of Trees ; I follow'd
 it with my Eye into the Sea, where it
 tofs'd, or drew up the Water to a vast
 Height into the Air, but the Rain falling
 thicker than before, hinder'd me from fol-
 lowing it long. That which to me seem'd
 awful and solemn, and to have something
 very terrible in it, was the Wind's frequent
 and sudden lulling, when from the loudest
 Roaring it would, all at once, sink into a
 perfect Calm, and the Silence would be
 most profound (except that the Sea was
 roaring at some Distance) for Half, or a
 whole Minute, and sometimes for near
 two Minutes together, and then it would
 come on again with redoubled Fury ; and
 the longer the Calm, the greater the Fu-
 ry, as if it had retreated a while to col-
 lect its Force, and do the Work of Destru-
 ction in one Attack more. Happy it was
 for us that we had the Day for it, and that
 it did not take the usual Rout of Hurri-
 canes ! for had it come upon us in the
 Night, and blown from the West, nothing
 but a Miracle could have upheld our Hou-
 ses, and other Buildings, and perhaps many
 of us shou'd have lost our Lives. As it
 was, we were taken napping and unpro-
 vided ; and tho', for two or three Days
 before we saw all the Signs that are [here]
 believ'd to be the Prognosticks of an Hur-
 ricane ; yet being in the Month of *June*,
 and no Hurricane having been known with
 us

us in the Memory of Man, till after the 20th of *July*, no body suspected the least Danger, till we were in it. For my own Part, I could not be persuaded there was any Danger at all, till about Nine in the Morning, when the Neighbours were nailing up their Doors and Windows in a Hurry. The Air was something hotter before the Storm than it uses to be, and continues so still; and some of us, having the Storm still sounding in our Ears, are not a little apprehensive of another, before the Expiration of the *Hurricane*-Months.

In the Beginning of the Storm, the *Fane* Frigate, a *New-England* Ship, capable of carrying 600 Hogheads of Sugar, was drove out from the Road of *Basterre* in *St. Christopher's*, with only 150 Hogsheads, and a very few Hands on board, and now lies at Wreck at *Spanish-Town*; but her Hands were taken up by a Sloop between *St. Eustace* and *Anguilla*. When the Wind flew about to the South-East, Ten or Twelve Top-sails (among which are the Fly-boat, Captain *Ellis*, the *Nassau*, the *Stapleton*, the *Ancient Briton*, the *Prince of Wales*, and a Brigantine bound for *Philadelphia*) and almost all the Sloops and small Craft, were drove ashore from their Anchors at *Basterre*, and immediately bulg'd or stav'd. A Ship from *Glasgow*, which rid it out till the Morning after the Storm, and then parted her

her Cables, is got off again without any Harm; but I hear it is not possible to save any of the rest. The *Paddington* Snow rid out the whole Storm, and sailed for *England* on the 2d Instant, with the first News of it. The *Gore-Gally*, Captain *Conway*, being loaded, put to Sea from the *Old Road* of *St. Christopher's*, but without her Papers and Letters, or Water for the Voyage; thrice (I'm told) was the Axe lifted up to cut her Masts away, but she kept up, and in three or four Days return'd safe to the same Place, from whence she sailed last *Saturday* for *Hull* in *Yorkshire*, where I hear they are erecting a Sugar-house. At *Sandy-point* in the same Island, a Ship from *Philadelphia*, Captain *Wright*, was drove upon the Rocks of *Bel-tache*, where she was beat to Pieces, and all the Crew lost, except one Man, and a Boy of about Ten Years old, the Manner of whose Escape is thus related to me. You see, said the Man to him, *they are all drown'd; can you swim?* No, answer'd the Boy. *Then you must drown too*, said the Man; and with that flung himself from the Wreck into the Sea. The Boy leap'd after him, and a Dog, which the Boy used to feed and play with, instantly follow'd. The Dog made up first to the Man, but finding his Mistake, fell a whining dolefully, when looking about, he saw the Boy, and made up to him. The Boy

Boy too eagerly laid hold on the Dog, and hung so heavy, that the Dog with much ado got clear of him, but so as to swim close by, and the Boy grown wiser, was content to lay his Hand now and then on the Dog's Head or Neck, by which means he got safe to Land. The Man, being a good Swimmer, and robust, sav'd himself. Two other Ships (both, I think, *Liverpool-Men*) put to Sea from the same Place, and made a Shift to keep above Water, with the Loss of the Rigging, Boats, and some of their Hands; but a Shallop belonging to Sir *Charles Payne* was lost thereabouts, with two or three of his best Slaves.

Here [*Nevis*] Captain *Cussens*, in the Brigantine *St. Mary's* of *New-England*, put to Sea in the Height of the Weather, with about 70 Hogheads; he was soon forced to cut away the Rigging and Masts; but was met two or three Days after a good way to Leeward by a Sloop, which informs us, that he is gone for *Jamaica*. Captain *Payne*, in a *Bristol* Snow from *Guinea*, having got his Loading, put out; but the Vessel, being crazy, sunk down between *St. Eustace* and *St. Martin's*; himself and all the Crew were drown'd, except the Boatswain and two Sailors, who swam to a *Bermudas* Sloop, which had overset at a small Distance from them, and saved themselves on her Bottom, as
her

her own Crew also did, till they were taken off by a Sloop that happen'd to pass that Way. The *Bermudas* Sloop was loaded by a Merchant here. One *Partridge*, an Inhabitant of this Place, put out in his Scooner with a Son of Mr. *Sheppard's*, and overfet near the *Nagg's-Head*, as we suppose; the Scooner has since been seen, Bottom up, between St. *Christopher's* and St. *Bartholomew's*. The Castle-Shallop belonging to the Estate of Sir *William Stapleton*, had been with a Load of Sugar at *Basterre*, from whence the three Negroes, that failed her, ventur'd out in the Storm, and, to the wonder of many, kept the Sea, till they reach'd *Anguilla*, where they were glad to run her ashore to save themselves, and are now return'd safe in another Vessel with the Rigging, &c. of the Shallop. But a White Man, with two choice Negroes in Mr. *Pemberton's* Castle-Shallop, quitting her, got on board Captain *Payne* after he had put to Sea, and with him the two Negroes perished, the white Man sav'd himself on the Bottom of the *Bermudas* Sloop. As Captain *Payne's* Snow was chiefly loaded by the Planters, I fear some of your Friends will suffer considerably by her Loss. For since the Fall of Sugar in *England*, the Slave-Merchants will not sell their Cargoes for Sugar, and we have no Cash in *England* to pay for them in Bills. These Traders

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therefore oblige the Planter to bargain with them for so much Money Sterling, and to load on the Ship that imported the Slaves such a Quantity of Sugar as they think will answer the Sum, and to consign the same to the Owners of the Ship, and then draw Bills on those Owners to pay themselves for their Slaves out of the Produce of the Sugar, which, for some time past, has been said (but not truly) to sell better at *Bristol* than *London*. Formerly a Hogshhead of our Muscovado Sugar used to clear in *England* 10 *l.* of late it clears something less than 4 *l.* So that seven Hogshheads now will hardly pay for a Slave of 28 *l.* Price ; whereas less than three would have done it before. To this Pass has the Ignorance or Neglects of former Times brought the Sugar Trade of *England* ! and thus are her Sugar Colonies served, now that the *African* Company has left off serving them with Slaves.

The Damage done to Windmills and Houses at *St. Christopher's* is reported to be great ; here, blessed be God, it is but small : Trees in several Places are torn up by the Roots ; many of the Negro-Huts, Mayors-Houses, and flighter Sugar Works, are beat down ; among the rest, yours on the Plantation you rent to Mr. ---- has suffer'd severely, and the House Mr. ---- lives in on the Other, is much shatter'd on the side next the Mountain ; other Losses
you

you have none here, except a very few Negro-Houses on the Plantation you manure your self, and the Laying of the Canes, which is general. The *Sea-horse* Man of War, Captain *Baker*, put to Sea from *Montserrat*; I saw her on the 3d Instant plying to Windward with Jury Masts, but without her Head, Boltsprit, or any of her former Rigging or Masts, and I have heard since, that she sent a Yawl (her other Boats being lost) to *Montserrat*, to fetch off some of her Crew that were left there when she put out, and that she was going to *English* Harbour in *Antegoa* to refit, and after that design'd for *Boston* in *New-England*. The Shipping at *Montserrat* have had much the same Fate as ours; some Shipwreck'd Sailors from thence have saved their Lives at *Indian-Castle* in this Island, but many more are lost. Captain *Hughes's* Ship (a *Liverpool* Vessel) put out, but her Hands quitted her at Sea, and got on board Captain *Jones* (a *Bristol-man*) who is now safe in this Road, with the Loss of his Mizzen Mast and some other Matters: *Hughes's* Ship was taken up at Sea by a small *Dutch* Vessel, and carried into *St. Eustace*. A Sloop belonging to Mr. *Webb*, the Collector of *Montserrat*, overfet in going out of the Road, as did a *Rhode-Island* Sloop at the same time. But the Loss there in Shipping is nothing to the Havock that is made ashore: Of the 36

Wind-mills they had, 30 are blown down to the Ground, and the other Six are much shatter'd, having lost their Veins and Round-houses : Above 20 Houses in their Town [*Plymouth*] are destroy'd, and many more in the Country, with most of the Boiling-Houses, and the Sugar in them, which was considerable. Colonel *William Lyddel* was so bruised with the Fall of his House, that he died two Days ago, much lamented ; many of the Whites, and more of the Blacks are hurted, and some killed by the falling down of their Houses ; and, in short, they are in so miserable a Condition all over that Island, that if I had Credit enough to presume so far, I wou'd recommend their Case to the publick Favour and Compassion ; they are well known to be an honest laborious People, and the Custom-House Books at Home will, in part, demonstrate their Usefulness to the Nation. The Loss in Sugar alone in the Shipping of *Nevis* and *St. Christopher's*, with what lay expos'd to the Weather on the several Bays, is computed at about Two Thousand Hogheads ; and, which must prove of far worse Consequence in this and next Year's Crop, the young Canes are almost every where stript and twisted, or blown out of the Ground, and the old ones laid flat upon it. The *Dutch* have sustain'd great Losses, both on Shore and in their Shipping, at *St. Eustace*.

As

As there can be no Ship from hence or *St. Christopher's* in a great while, I send this to be forwarded by the first Vessel from *Antegoa*, where I hear the Damage has not been great by Land, and the Loss in Shipping inconsiderable.

It is certainly strange, considering how fatal these Storms prove, and their Frequency here, in what we call the *Hurricane-Months* (which begin, as our Way of Reckoning has been hitherto, with the first full Moon or Change after the middle of *July*, and end with the first Full or Change after the 10th of *October*) that we shou'd not consult our own Preservation more than commonly we do. Some Appearances indeed have concurr'd to render us improvident, but without just Ground. I have been in above fifteen of these Storms here, none whereof came any thing near to that which was in the latter end of *August* 1707; and for the last seven or eight Years; the Storms in these Months have been no ways destructive, but rather beneficial to us, because of the great Rains that generally accompanied them; and during the whole Hurricane-Months of 1731 and 1732, we hardly felt one extraordinary Gust of Wind. Many of the present Inhabitants of our *Leeward-Islands* (especially of *St. Christopher's*) having settled here since the grand Storm in 1707, and suffer'd nothing very grievous from
that

that Time by Storms, are too easily induc'd to study Ornament and Convenience in their Buildings, rather than Safety. I have been told by an ancient Gentleman, that he had often heard his Father say, that there was once (I think about the Year 1648) a most severe Hurricane in those Parts, in the Month of *May*; but Length of Time, and Loss of Records, have brought the Fact itself in Question. About eight or nine Years ago, there was a great Storm of Wind here from the East, which held for six or seven Hours; but not shifting all that while, and no Harm being done to the Navigation, and but litle on the Land, it was not much minded then, and is forgotten now. And we had a most violent Gust of Wind on *Easter-Monday* (*April 7.*) in the Year 1729, attended with a heavy Shower of Rain and Hail, and, at length, of Hail alone. It happened exactly at Noon; when, from the brightest Sun-shine, such a Darknes all at once overspread our Island, that we cou'd not see distinctly within Doors, without Candles. It lasted about Fifteen Minutes, and blow'd so hard all that Time from the West, without varying one Point, that some of the Ships in the Road began to drag their Anchors, the Cables of others were parting, and all of them must have been brought to Land in a few Minutes more. It broke up as it began, suddenly,
and

and the Sun in an Instant appear'd bright as before. Some of the Hail-stones were of the Bigness, and pretty near the Form of an *English* Horse-Bean of the smaller sort, except that they were corner'd, and shew'd every where a Diamond Cut. I took up several Handfuls of them (for they lay in Heaps under the Eaves of the East-side of the Houses) and as often put some of the Stones into my Mouth, which gave me the Sensation of a certain agreeable Coldness, to which I had been many Years a Stranger, *i. e.* they felt and tasted just as Hail does in *Europe*, or rather, were equally cold and insipid. At first, I imagin'd the Hail Shower reached no farther than the Road, and three or four Miles around it, but was soon inform'd, that it spread over the whole Island, and that the Hail which fell up the Country, and on the Eastern-side, was in many Places larger than what I saw in Town. I need not add that it presently dissolv'd; and, as you know it is a Custom here for the Bulk of our Men to divert themselves on *Easter-Monday*, either in Town, or at other set Places, with Cock-fighting, you will not scruple to believe, that the Children in the Country, and such of our Women as never were in a Northern Climate, and above all, that the Negro-Slaves (having no more Notion of *Hail*, Ice, or Snow, than one that has always liv'd in *Great Bri-*

Britain, and had no Conversation with *West-India* Travellers, or their Writings, has of our White-Poll Mountain Pigeon, or of our Custard, Sour-Sap, or Mammee-Apple) must have done and said a great many odd Things at the Sight of the Hail, especially as it came suddenly upon them, and in an Hurricane of Wind, and at a Season when Storms are as little look'd for Here, as they are in *England* in the beginning of *July*. I have heard it affirm'd, but can produce no Vouchers for it, that Hail has often fallen in former times in *Barbadoes*, which lies about four Degrees more Southerly than we do; but it may perhaps deserve Consideration, that tho' the Wind was violent enough at the same Time in all the Neighbouring Islands, and particularly at *Montserrat*, which is about Six Leagues from us to the South-East, and at *St. Christopher's*, which is not above two Leagues from us to the North-West, yet there was no Sign of Hail in any Part of either of them. And as impetuous as the Wind was while it lasted, yet not having lasted long, and done but little Damage, the Impression it then made on us quickly went off, and we have only regarded it since as a Piece of News or Curiosity to entertain Strangers with, or as one of those extraordinary Events that do not come *Twice* in one Age, or more.

Upon

Upon these, and the like Accounts (I guess it is, that we are generally grown so remiss in preparing against these Storms. Most of our Houses in *Montserrat*, *Nevis* and *St. Christopher's*, are made of Timber, whereas it would evidently be much better for us to build with Brick, which might be done, considering the Durableness thereof, with less Expence than Timber; for Brick and Lime may be had from *England* at near the first Cost; and as the Ships from *London* come out frequently very light, they would be glad to bring us those Materials in a manner Freight-free; all we have to do, is to contract (by a *Charter-Party*, or otherwise) to load some of them with Sugar, within a certain Time after their Arrival here, and on such a Freight *per Cent* home, as can be agreed on, which (as might be proved with great Ease) would often be advantageous, and seldom or never hurtful to us in other Respects. As it is, we are forc'd to fetch all our Ground Timber, such as Iron-Wood, *Lignum Vitæ*, &c. from *Santa Cruz*, and other distant Places (for our *Leeward Islands* have, for some Years, unless I should except *Antegoa*, as to Iron-Wood, been almost quite exhausted of the more hard and durable Kinds of Timber; and none of the Fustwick and *Lignum Vitæ* Junks, which we now send in such Quantities to *England*, are of our own Growth,

but all bought up at Leeward, to serve as Balast for the homeward-bound) and all the other Sorts of Timber for the Roof, Beams, Wall-Plates, &c. and all the Boards and Shingles, are brought to us from *New-England*, and other Northern Provinces. No doubt, we should begin to build in Towns with Brick or Stone, if such Buildings were to be exempted from paying Taxes (as was try'd with good Success at *St. John's* in *Antegoa*) for some Years, and our Planters in the Country wou'd very probably do so too, if encourag'd to it, by an Abatement of the Taxes on their Slaves. Not to mention how much safer we shou'd then be from Fire, to which our Houses are now so liable, I'm sure such Buildings wou'd prove a better Security against Storms, than any we can make of Timber. As to the Objection from Earthquakes, tho' I have felt many a Shock here, I never knew, or heard of the least Hurt done by any of them in these Parts, except the Cracking of a Wall, which is but seldom; whereas many a Life has been lost, and infinite other Damage done by the Fall of Houses in a Storm.

Again; our Inhabitants wou'd do well to be constantly provided with strong wooden Bars, and to have Iron Hooks and Staples always ready fix'd at their Doors and Windows, into which to pin down those
those

those Bars on the Outside of the Houses : For after the Storm is begun, it is no easy Matter to nail Slips of Board (as the Way now is) across the Doors and Windows ; such Slips of Board are not always at Hand, and sometimes Nails must be sent for from the Shops ; the Negroes stand trembling in the Wind and Rain, and do their Work negligently ; the Master is wet too, and must shift to the Shirt twice or thrice before it can be finish'd ; when the Storm breaks out in the Night, it is still worse, and after all proves but a sorry Security : Whereas, were we constantly provided with such Bars, Hooks, Staples, and Pins, there would be no need of driving Nails at all, but whenever a Hurricane threatned, we might fix and pin down all the Bars in a Quarter of an Hour, or less. Besides, it too often falls out, that the Storm grows outrageous before all the Doors and Windows can be nailed up ; in the mean time, shou'd a Door chance to give way, or to fly open, as it requires a greater Strength to shut it than is to be had readily, so it may be broke to Pieces in the shutting ; and then when the Wind enters, and fills the House, and whirls about within it, if the Door or Windows on the opposite Side are not set open to give it instant Vent, the Roof is in Danger of being carry'd off at once, or, if it stands, by giving the Wind a present Vent,

yet the Difficulty of shutting all up again is seldom conquer'd; down comes the House, with the Destruction of all the Furniture, &c. and with the Loss perhaps of some of the Inhabitants, of which the Hurricane in 1707 furnished us with many sad Instances, and I wish this may not furnish us with many more from *Montserrat* than we have yet heard of.

Seventy or Eighty Years ago, our more provident Planters used to have what they call'd a *Hurricane-House*, to take Refuge in, in a Storm. These Houses were about 14 or 16 Feet square, and made of Stone and Lime from 3 to 4 Feet from the Ground to the Wall-plate, with Roofs as strong as cou'd be made of Hard-Wood. I have seen the Remains of some of them here, and many more may be still seen *intire* in *Martinico* and the other *French* Islands. But if I was Master of such an Estate as yours in this Island, I would erect one upon it with an Arch-Roof, capacious enough to hold all my White and Black Family, all my Household Furniture of Value, and such of my poorer Neighbours as could not make the like Provision for themselves. I wou'd have it built for Strength, like the old Houses between the Cities of *York* and *Edinburgh*, or, as some Moderns say they write, for Eternity. Here I wou'd keep my Salt Provisions, Liquors, Flower, &c. and on or before the
20th

20th of *June*, every Year, I would carry into it all my Household-Stuff and Apparel that cou'd be spar'd; and as soon as I perceiv'd a Storm coming on, I wou'd first bar up all the Doors and Windows of my Dwelling-house, and then enter (not without some Solemnity) with my whole Family, Black and White, and such of my poorer Neighbours as pleas'd to join with us, into my *Hurricane-Vault*, where I would have Matters so set out beforehand, that none of us shou'd have any thing to mind, during the Storm, but our Devotions, in which we wou'd more especially remember *all that travel by Land or by Water*, or that are not in so sure a Situation as our selves. And if at any time afterwards I had Occasion to sell my Plantation, I doubt not but the Purchaser wou'd give me between Three and Four Hundred Pounds the more for it, on Account of the *Hurricane-Castle*; tho' I think I can prove, that the making of it cou'd not cost me above Two Hundred Pounds: For all our Islands, this especially, abound in Stone; all of them make a little Lime, and *Antegoa* such Quantities, that I have known a good deal exported from thence to the neighbouring Islands; and it has been observed before, that Lime may be had for near the prime Cost from *England*; so that the chief Article wou'd be the Masonry; and I question
not

not but a Mason might be procured from Home for 25 *l.* a Year, and his Maintenance, who wou'd be a poor Workman indeed, if he did not compleat such a Building, with two or three able-bodied Slaves to attend him, in less than two Years Time.

These Precautions are obvious enough, and cou'd not fail, humanly speaking, to secure our selves, our Slaves, Houses, Furniture, Apparel, &c. As for the Canes, there is no such thing as preventing them from being torn out of the Ground, or thrown down upon it, and the Cattle, &c. must take their Chance.

With regard to the Shipping — I am none of those that pretend to direct others in their proper Business; but if I was Owner of a Ship that I design'd to trade or load at *Montserrat*, *Nevis*, or *St. Christopher's*, in the Hurricane-Months, I wou'd take especial Care in the first Place, to provide her with a Mate little short of what the Master shou'd be in Point of Skill, and nothing short of him in Diligence and Integrity; and when I met with such a one, he shou'd not fail of fit Encouragement. I wou'd order the Master to keep her as much in a sailing Posture as possible, from about the 20th of *June* to the 20th of *October*, and to chuse such a Birth among the other Shipping (especially at *Basterre* in *St. Christopher's*) as to be able to put out at any time, when the Wind blows
hard

hard from the North-East, being the Quarter in which our Hurricanes always begin, at least, I have not heard of one Exception but that (mention'd above) from the East; for the Hail-storm was in *April*. I wou'd not suffer him to make Entertainments on board, on any Pretence whatever; but if he thought fit to feast the Freighters, or any of his Friends, to do it at a Tavern, or somewhere else ashore; for shou'd a Storm arise, his first Care wou'd very justly be, to set his Guests on Land, which cannot be done with fewer than Four of his Hands to row the Pinnace; the Pinnace may not be able to get off again, and one or two of his other Boats, with two or three Hands in each, may be taking in Sugar from some of the distant Bays; mean while the Storm encreases, he has not much above half his People on board, in vain he wishes for his Boats and Hands, and stands accusing Fate or Fortune for what is pretty much his own Fault; and if withal he chanc'd to take a Glafs extraordinary with his Company, and is then forced to put to Sea, let any Man judge what will in all likelihood be the Event. I wou'd compel him to keep in the Ship all Night, and to repair on board constantly by Seven in the Evening; for shou'd a Storm surprize him when late ashore, 'tis very possible he may not be able, nor have Prefence of Mind to venture

ture off; at the same time, it is highly probable, if not certain, that the Pinnace would be waiting for him at the Waterside, and some of her Crew to be call'd on from the Punch-house; his other Boats may not be got on board with their Sugar; and shou'd the Mate then be obliged to put out, or be drove out, with perhaps not above five or six Hands, and without the Ship's Boats, let any one judge what is like to be the Consequence. I know some Excuses are alledged for the Captain's being ashore in the Night, which to me appear very frivolous: For, if they have any Goods to sell at the Roads where the Ships ride at Anchor, nothing is easier, than so to order Matters as to go on board before it is dark, especially since no Business of that kind can well be done here after Sun-set; and if they have Business in the Country, every body knows, that one may ride round *St. Christopher's*, and call at ten or fifteen Places by the Way, in the Space of Twelve or Fourteen Hours, and the same may be done at *Nevis* and *Montserrat* in two Thirds of that Time; or if Business, whether in Town or Country, requires a longer Attendance, the Captain had better (with regard to the Owner's, or to speak more freely than some perhaps will like, the Insurer's Interest) take another Day for it, than lye one Night out of his Ship. In short, all the

the Pretences I have heard for so doing, are extremely trifling; and if a Master seem'd to me to hanker after such a Liberty (here in Hurricane-time) I wou'd either not employ him at all, or not longer than till I cou'd put another in his Place. As for the Mate, he shou'd not once lay his Leg over the Side, except on Holidays, when the Weather was fair and promising; and then, for fear of some cross Emergency, he shou'd have a Boat to wait on him while ashore, in which he shou'd return on board an Hour before Sun-set at the latest. I add (tho' something foreign to the present Argument) that when or wherever I was concern'd in a Vessel, I wou'd have both Master and Supercargo bound in the strictest Articles, not to play at any Chance Game for Money, or for any thing more than a Bottle of Wine, or so; the Mischiefs that come from Gaming are too well known to be mention'd here, and Trading or Sea-faring Men who practise it, otherwise than has been said, deserve to be hiss'd out of Employment.

We do not hear that the *French* Islands have had any of this Hurricane, tho' I think *Guadalope* could not escape it; it has certainly happen'd in evil time for us. *France*, having more than tasted the Sweets of the Sugar Trade, nourishes her Sugar Colonies with all the Care of a tender

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Mother, and readily hearkens to, and stedily pursues, all those Ways and Means that the gaining a Mastery in that Trade requires. Our Sugar Colonies have been long on the Decline, and sorely discourag'd and press'd down from that very Quarter from whence their Support and Protection ought to come ; nay, their true State, and the real Interests of our Mother Nation in the Sugar Trade, far from being attended to, seem hardly to have been known even by some of those whose Duty it was to be Masters in that Knowledge. This made me presume to write *A Detection of the State and Situation of the present Sugar Planters of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands*, which was publish'd in *London* in *April* 1732, with a Dedication to a Great Man at Court, who is said to be always (a rare Felicity !) in good Humour, and wants no Soothing to promote that which his past Conduct shews to be chief in his Thoughts, *viz.* the Honour and Thriving of the Crown and Nation ; but such a Juncture of Things fell in then, that the Case itself cou'd not be duly consider'd in the proper Place, and I thereby gain'd Time to write *A Supplement* to the *Detection*, explaining some Matters that had been but slightly touch'd on there, to which was added *a Postscript* taking notice of the Abuses put upon the Nation by those who have all along endeavour'd to hide from
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her the true State of her *West-India* Concerns. That *Supplement* was Printed off by the 10th of *March* last, when several Copies of it falling into the Hands of some Gentlemen in *London*, they were unanimously of Opinion (as my Factor writes) that it was better to be quiet, and not to publish any thing at that Time relating to the *Sugar Trade*; and thereupon, it seems, my Bookseller was prevail'd with not to publish it at all, but for what Reasons he has not yet thought fit to signifie to me; nor can I conceive how these Gentlemen came to make so free with my Property, the Expence of the Press being wholly mine, and none of them having had the least Direction from me concerning it. As soon as I had Notice of this ungenerous (not to say foul) Dealing, I wrote to the Bookseller, on the 14th of *May* last, to publish it forthwith, whatever any one had to alledge against it, together with, *A Second Postscript*, being an Answer to a Speech against the Sugar Colonies said to have been made last Year in the H— of C—s by Mr. O—pe. And having been inform'd by my Factor's Letter of the 15th of *February*, which I receiv'd on the 7th of *April*, of the Methods that were then propos'd in *England* to retrieve the Sugar Trade of the Nation, I wrote *An Enquiry* into those Methods, in which I shew'd their Insufficiency, and also made bold to

suggest such Methods as I doubt not will be judged (by all *Englishmen* who understand the Sugar Trade and are not *Frenchify'd*) to be the Methods *without which it is impossible* to retrieve it. A Ship that failed from this Island on the 30th of *April* carried that *Enquiry*, and a Duplicate thereof was sent by another from *St. Christopher's* in Ten Days after; but as it must have gone thro' the same Hands as the *Supplement*, very like it has found the same Fate; our latest Letters from *London* are of the 20th of *April*, and we are wholly in the dark as to what has pass'd there in regard to the Sugar Trade, and I know not what is become of my Papers. But since it is evident that the Circumstances of the Sugar Colonies and Trade have not been so well understood in *England* as their Importance deserves, and since it cannot but be confess'd probable, that some useful Hints may be given concerning the same from these Parts, I hope, if these Papers have been stifled, it will not give Offence if they are publish'd by some other Bookseller next Winter, altho' the Publick shou'd have done with the Subject they treat of. Every Man ought, *as he has Opportunity*, to do what he can for the publick Emolument; every Man therefore ought to have Leave to vent his Mind concerning it, *as he has Opportunity*, provided his Manner be decent

cent and respectful, and that he discovers nothing of a Spirit of Falshood or Faction, Cavilling or Calumny. Whoever denies that Liberty on these Terms, or presumes to take it on any other, be the Subject Civil or Sacred, and the Form of Government *Turkish, Dutch*, or what you will, seems to me to take a sure Way, tho' he may not perceiye it till late, to frustrate what he has, or wou'd be thought to have, in View, *viz.* the serving of the Community. And if in any such Attempt of mine, I do but escape Censure, or obtain Pardon, I shall have all the Benefit I desire, or indeed have Occasion to desire from it, for myself.

I shall only add here that, as many of our Inhabitants of the middling or poorer sort, have for the last Three or Four Years been removing with their Slaves to the Northern Colonies, where they can with Ease raise or purchase those Conveniences of Life which are not, in the present Decay of the Sugar Colonies, to be had here, but at an Expence above their Ability ; so (unless those to whom it belongs can devise some sure and speedy Means to prevent it) there is no doubt but all our other Inhabitants, who have but small Plantations, and not above 20 or 30 Negroes, will in a short Time dispose of themselves in the same manner, and some of them perhaps may go to the foreign
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Sugar Colonies, where they are sure of a hearty Welcome; and when these are gone, the Masters of such large and well-settled Plantations as Yours is, must either betake themselves to some other Trade than Sugar-making, or quickly fall a Sacrifice to the more dextrous Rivals of our Nation in that Manufacture. To say nothing of the White Inhabitants, *England* has still in her Sugar Islands, in young and old, about 240,000 Negro-Slaves, which at 22 *l.* per Head is Five Millions Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pounds Sterling, and the Buildings, Sugar-Utensils, &c. In the same Islands, are worth near Twice that Sum: Let her once lose these, or give them up, and she will find it no such easy Matter to regain the like in these Parts, or in any other that are equally fit for the Sugar-Manufacture. And I wish some Gentlemen wou'd consider before it be too late, that the Loss of the Sugar-Trade wou'd be to *Great-Britain*, upon the general Balance with a certain Neighbouring Power, what Deserters are in a Battle, a Loss to the Side they leave, and a Gain to that they go to, which is double. I am,

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